

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 CU-04

COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 IO-13 PC-04 SCS-03 AID-20

CCO-00 FBO-01 NIC-01 M-03 OC-06 OPR-02 SCA-01 A-01

OMB-01 SY-10 NEA-10 RSR-01 /181 W

----- 109239

P 022048Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4739

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SANTIAGO 2871

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CI, ELAB, PINT, PINS

SUBJECT: TENIENTE STRIKE SETTLEMENT CONDITIONAL

REF: SANTIAGO 2655

1. SUMMARY: TENIENTE MINE STRIKERS' ASSEMBLY VOTED
EVENING JULY 1 ACCEPT LATEST GOC OFFICER, CONTINGENT ON
MODIFICATION OF CLAUSE ON DISCIPLINING ERRANTS. SMALL
GROUP MINERS STILL OCCUPING CONGRESS SANCTUARY WHILE
WIVES HAVE VOTED TO MAINTAIN CONTROL RADIO RANCAGUA UNTIL
AGREEMENT SIGNED. END SUMMARY.

2. LARGE MAJORITY OF STRIKING MINERS VOTED BY SHOW OF HANDS
TO ACCEPT LATEST GOC OFFER IN ASSEMBLY HELD IN RANCAGUA
EVENING JULY 1. MINERS ACCEPTED OFFER WHICH STRIKE LEADER
MEDINA CLAIMS INCLUDES ONE-TIME BONUS RANGING 20 TO 30
THOUSAND ESCUDOS AND ACROSS BOARD WAGE INCREASE OF 3 THOUSAND
ESCUDOS MONTHLY RETROACTIVE TO LAST APRIL 1. MINER ACCEPTANCE
OF FORMULA CONDITIONAL ON MODIFICATION CLAUSE ESTABLISHING
MANAGEMENT APPOINTED "SPECIAL COMMISSION" WHICH
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MANAGEMENT PROPOSES WOULD DETERMINE FATE MORE ZEALOUS

STRIKERS. STRIKERS WANT NO REPRISAL CLAUSE BUT INSIST AS MINIMAL ON CREATION "POPULAR TRIBUNALS" (WITH STRIKER REPRESENTATIVES) TO DECIDE PUNISHMENT ERRANTS AND PREVIOUSLY DISMISSED WORKERS. STRIKER MEETING SCHEDULED EVENING JULY 2 TO HEAR GOC RESPONSE STRIKER PROPOSAL ON THIS ISSUE.

3. MEANWHILE WIVES OF STRIKERS HAVE MET AND "UNANIMOUSLY" DECIDED MAINTAIN PHYSICAL POSSESSION COMMUNIST PARTY-OWNED RADIO RANCAGUA, SEIZED EARLY IN STRIKE. SMALL GROUP OF MINERS STILL HOLED-UP ON CONGRESS GROUNDS. BOTH GROUPS VOW THEY WILL REMAIN UNTIL "AGREEMENT IS SIGNED." DURING PAST WEEK WE HAVE HEARD MANY PRIVATE ADMISSIONS FROM PDC LABOR LEADERS THAT SIZABLE NUMBERS OF CHUQUI SYMPATHY STRIKERS ARE RETURNING TO WORK.

4. COMMENT: ON BALANCE, VOTE TENIENTE MINERS REPRESENTS DEFEAT BUT WITH SAVING OF FACE. ONE-SHOT BONUS OFFER OF 20-30 THOUSAND ESCUDOS IS ONLY 6 THOUSAND MORE THAN WAS ON TABLE IN EARLY STAGES OF STRIKE (SANTIAGO 1942), BUT MONTHLY INCREASE IS NEW AND SIGNIFICANT CONCESSION PART OF GOC. OFFER 3 THOUSAND ESCUDOS ACROSS BOARD INCREASE REPRESENTS ABOUT 10 TO 33 PER CENT WAGE INCREASE WHEN APPLIED TENIENTE WAGE SCALES. MINER DEMANDS WERE FOR RESTORATION 41 PER CENT PAY LOST PREVIOUSLY ON "REAJUSTE."

5. A SETTLEMENT AT TENIENTE ON BASIS OF GOC OFFER WILL FOR ALL PURPOSES SETTLE QUESTION UNION'S RIGHTS TO DOUBLE READJUSTMENT BASED ON INCREASE IN CPI. GOC POLICY OF DEDUCTING AMOUNT WAGE INCREASE RECEIVED AS RESULT COLLECTIVE CONTRACT PROVISION FOR COST-OF-LIVING FROM GENERAL "REAJUSTES" NOW SEEMS ESTABLISHED. SINCE THIS WAS MAJOR ISSUE TENIENTE STRIKE, GOC CAN UNDOUBTEDLY CLAIM PRECEDENT-SETTING VICTORY. HOWEVER, UNIONS OPTION AND RIGHT CONTINUE RECEIVE CURRENT MONTHLY ADJUSTMENTS UNDER THESE NEGOTIATED PROVISIONS IS NOT ENDANGERED BY SETTLEMENT.

6. STILL DISPUTED PROPOSAL ON DISCIPLINARY ACTION IS ALL-IMPORTANT TO STRIKE LEADERS AND MORE MILITANT FOLLOWERS. IF GOC MANAGEMENT IS GIVEN FREE HAND TO DISMISS STRIKE LEADERS, GROWING OPPOSITION PARTY INFLUENCE IN TENIENTE UNIONS CAN BE EFFECTIVELY CHECKED.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: STRIKE SETTLEMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 JUL 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: elyme
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SANTIA02871
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: SANTIAGO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730758/aaaabqoo.tel
Line Count: 109
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 SANTIAGO 2655
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: elyme
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16-Jan-2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <07 FEB 2002 by elyme>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TENIENTE STRIKE SETTLEMENT CONDITIONAL
TAGS: ELAB, PINT, PINS, CI, TENIENTE MINE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005